THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) & (b) The Central Government determines the rate of interest in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund in its meeting held on 21.11.2005 had deliberated on the issue of rate of interest for the year 2005-06. However, as the discussions were inconclusive, it was unanimously decided to deliberate further in the next meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (EPF) to finalise the matter.

Bungling in flood/famine relief work

977. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year reports of bungling in Muster Rolls during flood/famine relief works are reported and officials and contractors in the name of poor labourers siphon off large sums of money; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to curb such corrupt practices?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pension and other benefits to the employees working in labour commissioner office, Indore

†978. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether after reinstating the people, who had been removed from service having 20 years in service and at age of 50 years in office of labour commissioner, Indore, their pay have been fixed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether pensions have not been given to the people who have retired during this period and other benefits also have not been given; and

(d) the reason for this delay and by when other benefit and pension would be given, and the details thereof?

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRl K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-payment of wages to Indian by a Dubai based company

979. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian workers employed by a construction company of Dubai have not been paid their salaries since last one year;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(c) how many such cases have come into light during the last two years and what is the country-wise details of such cases; and

(d) what action is being taken/would be taken by Government against the agencies involved in sending the workers illegally and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRl OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As reported by the Consulate General of India, Dubai, there was no such case.

(c) Such data is not maintained.

(d) Sporadic complaints are received about cheating of Indian workers by unregistered recruiting agents. On receipt of such complaints, the concerned Protectors of Emigrants (PoEs) are directed to file complaints/ FIRs against such unregistered recruiting agents for violation of Section 10 of the Emigration Act 1983. During the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 31.10.2005), 25,39 and 49 complaints have respectively been filed with the Police authorities against such illegal recruiting agencies.

Religious holidays

980. SHRl K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be plesed to state:

(a) the number of religious holidays at present being given to Central Government employees in the country;

(b) the present position in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of restricted holidays instead of religious holidays; and